

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Vol. I, No. 5

February, 1953



Church Building Loan Fund Committees with Dr. Nelson Dreier

Church Building Loan Fund Campaign Swings Into High Gear

Members of the CBLF committees and Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention were inspired by the presentation of the need for the fund by Dr. Nelson C. Dreier, who is chairman of the Fund for all churches from Michigan to Florida, at the training session held in Atlanta on January 6. He was ably assisted by Superintendent Erston M. Butterfield and the Rev. Lowell A. Smoot, Convention Chairman for the Fund.

"My work with the CBLF gives me a chance to do something toward the spiritual storehouse of today for to-

morrow", said Dr. Dreier earnestly, "it is helping to bring the love of God into the lives of people."

The convention is now ready to swing into high gear. Area meetings have been set up (see back page for dates and churches) and letters have been sent to all ministers and churches telling about them and setting the time and place. Shortly after the area meetings the committees will get together again to plan the "follow through".

With careful planning, enthusias-

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MERRILL'S MARAUDER MADE MINISTER

By Ch (Capt.) Edwin C. Gomke



Major Logan E. Weston

Major Logan E. Weston is a quiet, unassuming Army Officer assigned to the First Officer Candidate Regiment at Fort Benning, Georgia. No one would guess that he was once called the "Fighting Preacher" in such an illustrious outfit as General Merrill's Marauders.

His basic Army Branch is Infantry, but his heart is set on much higher sights than his M-1 or any other weapon the modern soldier knows. Major Weston aspires to be an Army Chaplain just as soon as he can meet all the requirements of the Corps. He entered the service as a buck private from New Bedford, Pa., in January 1941. Three years later, after training in the States and many months of hazardous duty in the South Pacific, Major Weston, then a lieutenant, landed in Burma behind the Japanese lines with the famous "Merrill's Marauders". Weston was made platoon leader of the I and R Platoon, one of the most dangerous assignments of the war.

But I am getting too far ahead of my story—even during those hectic days on the Fiji Islands, New Georgia, and Guadalcanal, the young lieutenant was helping the chaplains by conducting informal worship services and counseling men with their problems when they could not reach a chaplain. When the fighting grew even more dangerous, as it did in Burma later, the regimental commander asked Weston to officiate at burials in the absence of a chaplain and, whenever there was enough time, to conduct religious services for the men of the regiment. When he returned home after the war, having spent seven months behind enemy lines, he had been wounded twice, won the Bronze Star and the Silver Star with cluster and the Distinguished Service Cross for bravery.

His heroism on the battlefield had not dampened his enthusiasm for seminary training. Just as soon as he returned to civilian status, he re-enrolled at Transylvania Bible College and served a Methodist Church part-time at Kittaning, Pa. When the Korean War broke out he volunteered his services as a chaplain, but fell short of the necessary credits and pastoral experience. Thinking that maybe he could transfer to the Chaplains' Corps after he returned to active duty, he volunteered for active duty in the infantry and was sent to Korea as a company commander.

His Korean tour behind him, he is at present the Executive Officer of an Officer Candidate Battalion. He is still a line officer, but has not given up hope that some day he will be permitted to wear the cross of his calling. In fact, on Sunday he is just as much in demand as ever, filling

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NEW ANTIOCH CHURCH DEDICATION SERVICE



Antioch Congregational Christian Church

Antioch Church, Rt. 2, Andalusia, Ala., was organized in 1873. The first building was a split log structure. It stood across the road from the present building. The church was organized as Congregational Methodist. Its first pastor was the Rev. Lee Goram. The second building was a square log building a few yards north of the first structure.

In 1902 the church changed from Congregational Methodist to Congregational. The same year, a new building was erected. This was a frame structure consisting of one room. This building remained until 1952 when the present building was started.

The name was changed to Congregational Christian when the union between Congregational and one branch of the Christian church took place.

There have been eleven men to enter the ministry from the Antioch Church during its history. All of these except two remained in the

ministry as a life's work. Several are dead and two retired. There are at present three active ministers in our fellowship who call Antioch home. They are the Rev. Chandler Adams, the Rev. Ralph Worley, and the Rev. Odeal Worley.

Down through the history of the church, its program has been supported in some measure by the Home Mission Board, usually in the form of a supplement to the minister's salary.

In 1951 the church called as its pastor the Rev. Hugh Lasseter, and immediately launched a building program. The total income of the church for 1950 had been only \$650. The church managed to raise \$3712

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*Rev. Hugh
Lasseter*

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

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Vol. I, No. 5

February, 1953

Howdy, Friends . . .

And thanks for your generous response with news and subscriptions to our monthly pleas in this column. We now have 420 subscriptions, with some coming in each week, thanks to the earnest endeavors of our subscription chairmen and ministers. We received so much news that we have to hold over two GOOD articles sent in by ministers. Look for them in the March issue. We have also had to shorten some of the news from the churches in order to get it all in! This represents REAL PROGRESS for our magazine, and it is all due to *you*, our faithful reporters. Please sign your name at the bottom of your copy so that we may give each reporter full credit for news.

As the news comes in each month, we feel as if we have had a little visit with each church. We hope too that the information given about the work and the plans going forward in our large area will prove interesting to you and will bring us all closer together in spirit as a denominational family.

Generous Gift Received From Massachusetts Women

A check for \$500 has been received from the Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union. This special gift has enabled the Southeast Convention office to purchase a Bell and Howell Filmo Sound 16 MM Motion Picture Projector, an SVE 300 Watt Slide and Film Strip Projector, and a New Challenger Dalite 60 inch screen.

The new equipment will be used for promotional and educational work throughout the convention by the staff and the local churches.

With only one filmstrip projector it has been necessary to alternate the use of it between the Rev. Dollar and Miss Petersen, but now each will have this equipment at all times and films can be shown by Mr. Dollar in the churches at the same time Miss Petersen is showing films to the women and young people.

With two film projectors, it will mean that more films can be shown in the churches, giving each church an opportunity to see and hear of our Christian World Mission and to come to understand their place in and responsibility to our larger fellowship.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The Relief and Reconstruction of wartorn countries was expected to be a temporary postwar emergency, but it is now recognized that it is an obligation for Christians to adjust our Christian living to this need. People by the millions in many parts of the world suffer—fathers, mothers, little children, the lonely and the abandoned. They are hungry, sick, persecuted, destitute, nearly naked, cold, afraid, bitter, abused, neglected. We must do our share to help them. . . . March 8th is the day.

SUPERINTENDENT'S PAGE

Say, this is going to be fun! Every issue of the *Southeast News*, I'm to have a page all to myself! In that way I can visit every church and in the home of every member at least once a month. (If they subscribe to the *Southeast News* that is.)

That means we'll have the chance to talk over some of our experiences, our problems, our possibilities; share our mutual concerns, and plan for our united efforts. I'm not a magazine salesman, but won't each one of you do your best to increase our subscription list? This *Southeast News* can be one of the most important factors as we build together for the future. If each present subscriber gets two more to send in their names (and \$1.50 group rate) we would be reaching over 1200 homes with the news, programs, and plans of our local churches, associations, conferences and Convention! What a power that could bring to our total denominational work in the South!

Well, its been just 15 days since I've been "at work". There have been letters to answer (that's what I was doing when they snapped the above) special meetings on the CBLF Campaign, all kinds of interviews, and 2,079 miles to travel—and it has been a thrilling introduction to the Southeast Convention!

There was the Dedication of our new Antioch Church near Andalusia, where Hugh and Marian Lasseter and their grand people have built one of the most beautiful small churches you will find anywhere in the South! Believe me they've got good carpenters and good cooks in that church, but best of all—thoroughly dedicated Christians.

Then came the Ordination to the Christian Ministry of Logan E. Weston (Major U.S.A.) at our Highlands Church, Columbus. Don't fail to read



Rev. Erston M. Butterfield

the fascinating article about Major Weston which appears in this issue.

When the Church Building Loan Fund committees met with Dr. Nelson Dreier on the 6th, a great deal of good planning resulted. A full report is in this issue together with the schedule for a series of area meetings for mid-February. Let's have every church represented at those meetings—ready and willing to do its fair share in this truly great task.

Last Sunday was spent in Kentucky, with the congregations at Corbin and Evarts. Corbin has lost its steeple and has a lovely new vestibule. As time goes along the redecorating will continue. Their new organ is a wonderful addition! At Evarts I learned at first hand about our Congregational heritage in that part of Kentucky, and it's a truly remarkable story. Perhaps we can relate it in one of our next issues. Both churches are carrying on under the

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Southern Union College

Southern Union College took advantage of the Christmas vacation to do some more painting and fixing up. In Elder Hall the corridors, stairway, and science laboratory were painted. Redecoration of the chapel is going forward slowly. One hundred and fifty sturdy chairs have replaced the former benches. In Kimball Hall the rooms on the top floor which had remained unfinished since the building was rebuilt fifteen years ago were plastered. The floor of the dining hall was repainted, thanks to a gift of the materials from the Pilgrim Congregational Church of Chattanooga.

Student enrollment this winter quarter totals ninety. Of this number seventy-five are commuting students and fifteen are residents on campus.

The Recreation Institute, which will be held on the campus February 1-7, will consist of training in indoor and outdoor games, group singing, story-telling, folk and singing games, and drama. This Institute will be directed by Mrs. Jane Bishop Nauss, who is on the staff of the Council of Southern Mountain Workers of Berea, Kentucky. The Institute is open to all interested adults, teachers, community leaders, and students. Sessions will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 each evening. A registration fee of \$1.00 is the only expense.

The ministers of eastern Alabama and western Georgia have been holding monthly meetings at the Hillside Church in LaGrange. The group has decided to hold future meetings at SUC so that the ministerial students of the college can share in the meetings, held the first Tuesday of each month. Mrs. Jane Bishop Nauss will be the speaker on February 3rd.

Piedmont College

The Piedmont College Prize Essay Contest is open to all qualified high school seniors graduating this year. The maximum number of words is 500, minimum 250, and the topic is "What a College Education Means to Me". It must be typed. Your manuscript must be mailed not later than April 20, 1953 to Chairman, Prize Essay, Piedmont College, Demorest, Georgia.

Three prizes will be awarded.

- 1) *First prize*—one year's full tuition at Piedmont College (\$180)
- 2) *Second prize*—part tuition at Piedmont College (\$90)
- 3) *Third prize*—part tuition at Piedmont College (\$75)

Your essay must not be signed, but enclose with manuscript a sealed envelope containing your name and address, and the name of your high school with date of expected graduation and the name of Principal of said school.

Winners will be notified by their Principal on the night of graduation from High School.

The Rev. Guy L. Colbert Honored

In the annual selection of outstanding students for inclusion in the current edition of WHO'S WHO IN AMERICAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, five students at Athens College were chosen for this recognition.

Guy Livingston Colbert, Doctor of Chiropractic, of Decatur, Alabama, a native of Chetek, Wisconsin, with scholastic status of B quality while practicing his vocation, an outstanding leader of the student ministerial group, and a member of the student government council, heads this list.

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THE CHRISTIAN RURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

With his office at 407 Louina Street, Roanoke, Ala., the Rev. C. Carl Dollar is a member of the staff of the Southeast Convention, with the title of Director of The Christian Rural Extension Service. Mr. Dollar has visited many of our churches, and perhaps the majority of ministers and churches are somewhat acquainted with the nature of his undertaking. But since this is a new type of service for our area, it is well to say something about the work and plans of CRES in these pages.

Stated briefly but comprehensively, the objective of CRES is Better Churchmanship and Better Rural Communities. It is quite apparent to most of us that our churchmanship needs strengthening at many points. Most of our rural churches have not yet become fully awakened to their opportunities and responsibilities, in either the local community or the world. But gradually more and more of our churches are recognizing the fact that this is a day of progress and that the church must keep pace or fail in its duty and opportunity.

A number of our churches are realizing that they must plan their work and work their plan. The more a church recognizes its potential and the more it commits itself to the task, the more it realizes its need for better leadership, better facilities, and a broader program of activity and service. This means that this church will need more resources, more help in training leadership and in program planning. This is a part of the job which CRES stands ready to help with in any way possible.

This assistance has been given in different forms as CRES has served and channelled services into the area. There have been leadership training courses, stewardship and evangelism institutes, better churchmanship ses-

sions, etc., held in local churches and for groups of churches, with leadership from our national boards and our conference staff, as well as other leadership.

Special emphasis has been given to planned education in Our Christian World Mission. Mr. Dollar visited many local congregations upon invitation to assist the pastor in enlightening and challenging the people in stewardship. There have been stewardship "revivals" and institutes, usually followed by a systematic Every Member Canvass. In every instance where there has been a thorough job done in preparation for the canvass the results have been most gratifying. The giving has increased two- and three-fold and more. An enlightened and inspired congregation is a sharing congregation, and an enlarged and revitalized church program results.

The director of CRES would like an opportunity to serve more churches and to help more pastors. If there is something you need his help with, feel free to call upon him. IMPROVED CHURCHMANSHIP is the objective of Christian Rural Extension Service. Make it easier for him to serve by asking him to visit your church and to help you with your planning and work.

Church Building Loan Fund
tic promotion by committees, ministers and churches and complete "follow through", there is every reason to believe that the Southeast Convention will not only meet the \$30,000 goal, but go well over that amount.

Rev. Guy L. Colbert

The Rev. Colbert is also fulltime pastor of the Mountain Grove Church, near Hanceville, Ala., and is Moderator of the North Alabama Association.

WHY INCREASE PER CAPITA DUES?

By Montez Albright

At the three fall state conferences the delegates were requested to raise the per capita, or "fellowship dues" as they are called nationally, to 35c per member. The Kentucky-Tennessee Conference voted to raise their per capita giving from 30c to 35c last October, and the Georgia Conference voted last October to increase their per capita giving from 25c to 30c for 1953.

There are many reasons for this increase. First, the General Council in Claremont last June voted to request the churches to increase their share of the per capita giving (the amount which goes to the General Council) from 16c to 20c.

Georgia and Kentucky - Tennessee Conferences have been paying this 16c in the past, although the Alabama Conference has been paying at the rate of 8c.

Until the past three years, because some of the churches did not meet their per capita goals, there was no balance from per capita dues left over after sending the amount due to the General Council. This year, however, balances as follows will be sent to the Conference treasurers, to be used for work within the state conference:—

To Alabama Conference—\$123.83

To Georgia Conference—\$175.69

To Kentucky-Tennessee Conference—\$115.96.

This is the balance between per capita dues which was received by the convention office and the amount requested by the General Council. It means that your state conferences will have this amount of money on hand for state expenses during the coming year.

Another important reason for meeting the request of the General Coun-

cil to raise our per capita giving is to make possible the efficient functioning of the office of the General Council. It is working for us and we must help to finance the work.

Superintendent

(Continued from page 5)

part-time leadership of the Rev. Charles Drake while we continue our search for a fulltime minister.

Just in the past few days Dr. Archie Bedford and I visited the Savannah River Project Area. On January 15 I sat in with an interdenominational committee charged with the responsibility of meeting the religious needs of the thousands of families temporarily in the area doing work in the vast government installation. In the Robbins Trailer City at Aiken I saw 1000 trailers crammed together in a small area with no grass, no trees, no recreational facilities and no playgrounds! Over 3,000 people with no church and no minister! There are three other such large trailer cities and over a hundred smaller ones.

We're going to help, and at the same time investigate the possibilities of establishing a new permanent church at Aiken to serve the people of that once comfortable little resort town which took on the character of a metropolitan area almost overnight.

And so we work together. As members, churches, associations, conferences we join hands to do God's Work as The Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches.

Let's give of our best, pray for each other daily, and ask God's blessing upon our every worthy effort.

—Erston M. Butterfield.

Church News

The inspiration of the *Daisy Church* is our beloved pastor, the Rev. J. W. Davenport who has labored untiringly through the years for the upbuilding of the church and the entire community. Through his Christian leadership we have been able to make marked progress. Working with him in all his endeavors is the Ladies Guild and the Men's Fellowship Club.

The guild, organized in 1922, has done remarkable work in its continuous period of existence. During the year they raised \$500 for carpet for the church and \$59 for cabinet sink for the Community Cabin adjoining the church. They have also furnished flowers for the sick and deceased and have done many things for the general welfare of the community. The guild will observe its thirtieth anniversary with a dinner meeting February 12 at the Town and Country clubhouse in Chattanooga. This has become an annual affair.

The Men's Fellowship Club has painted the Cabin inside at a cost of \$30, painted the church inside and outside for \$100 and made repairs on the parsonage at a cost of \$150.

The church has met its apportionment and per capita goals and has contributed \$10 for ministerial relief.

—Mrs. Ella V. Lewis.

The *Union Hill Church* near Pearson, Ga., is making progress under the now fulltime pastor, the Rev. Earl Hand. On October 20 the Rev. Hand with his wife and two sons moved to the community to become the church's first fulltime pastor. Since that time all phases of the church work have gone forward with remarkable increase in attendance and individual contributions of interest, time and substance.

The home for the new pastor is nearing completion, with all members and friends of the church responding generously to the call for help. With God's help and guidance the project which seemed also impossible for a small country church will soon be accomplished.

Three new members have been added to the church roll by confession, and one has come by letter. Many hearts rejoiced to see souls added to God's Kingdom.

The *Eclectic Union Church* held an ordination service for four deacons the fourth Sunday in December, with the Rev. Archie Ballard of Tallassee and the Rev. Otto Culpepper, the new pastor, conducting the beautiful and impressive service.

At a called meeting of the church deacons on January 2, it was decided to redecorate the interior of the church. On January 4 a Sunday School was organized with twenty-four people present despite the bad weather. A Prayer Meeting service is held twice each month with preaching morning and evening on the 4th Sunday.

—Mrs. Lillie Mae Price.

The *Bethel Church of West Point* was privileged to have the Rev. Clyde Flannery conduct the service recently. He read the Christmas scriptures and told the story of "Little Pedro and the Chimes".

On December 21 the church called the Rev. Lynwood Hubbard to serve as pastor. Lynwood is at present attending Southern Union College in Wadley, and the church is looking forward to his pastorate and hoping to help him and his family. The Rev. John Dollar of Lanett has been serving the church for two and a half

News of the Churches

years, and during that time he has built a church which is almost free of debt and has received twenty-three members into the church, of which eleven were baptized. The church people feel he has done a wonderful job and regret his retirement, made necessary by failing health. We take this opportunity to say, "Thank you Rev. Dollar for your Christian faith and the inspiration you have been to us. May God richly bless you for these 46 years of faithful service you've given to Him, and may He bless that wonderful companion of yours. You could not have done it without her faith and spirit."

—Mrs. James M. Smith.

The *Hebron Church of Crest* has experienced in 1952 its best year in every respect. Attendance at all services has greatly increased and thirty-two new members were added to the church roll during 1952. Three new Sunday School rooms have been built, the interior of the church has been completely re-worked with sheet-rock on the walls, hardwood floors, and new light fixtures. The pastor, the Rev. Paul Pike, with the cooperation of his people, has done a marvelous job and the whole program of the church is revitalized.

J. C. Ellerbee is Superintendent of the Sunday School and Mrs. H. F. Mallory is President of the W.M.S.

Though the mountains were covered with snow and the air very chilly outside when Supt. Butterfield arrived in Evarts the evening of January 11 for his first official visit, he found a warm welcome from the congregation gathered to meet him. Supt. Butterfield's warmth, broad vision and understanding greatly encouraged those present. He left them feeling the right pastor could and

would be found for the church. The Evarts Church hopes the Rev. Butterfield will return for a longer visit.

Mrs. Connor Linkous was recently elected Sunday School Superintendent of Evarts Church. She has been the church pianist for thirteen years and has held offices in every branch of the church work. Miss Minnie Griggs was elected church clerk.

The church has been very fortunate in having the leadership of three young men—Herman Patterson, Billy Buckner and Orbin Coleman—while without a pastor. Herman Patterson is Chairman of the Church Board, Billy Buckner is Choir Director and retiring treasurer, and Orbin Coleman is retiring Sunday School Superintendent.

As an expression of appreciation for their splendid and gracious service, the two missionary groups of the church added to the Pattersons' silver pattern at Christmas. A beautiful pageant was directed by Williams Buckner, and a silver offering given to the fund for aged ministers.

—Mrs. N. B. Smith.

The *Richland Church* has changed the regular preaching day to the third Sunday of each month in order that the Rev. W. C. Carpenter could serve as pastor. An electric bulletin board has been installed in front of the church for the convenience of strangers to the community. Last month a family of five from Indiana stopped for church services.

The church had a Christmas program followed by a covered dish supper.

—Mrs. W. G. Abell, Sr.

KNOW, CARE AND SHARE!
ONE GREAT HOUR—MARCH
8th

News of the Churches

The *LaGrange, United Church* conducted a very successful every member canvass and began the new year free from indebtedness. The parsonage has been repaired and renovated and a new heating system installed at a cost of \$1,000. Plans are under way for a new heating system for the church.

During the Christmas season thirty families were given assistance by the church, the W.M.S. and the Men's Club. At the December meeting of the Women's Fellowship splendid reports were given by each circle, followed by a delicious supper and the exchange of gifts.

For the Sunday School Christmas program the birth of Christ in Scripture and song was given entirely by the children, under the direction of Milford Carpenter, Superintendent of the Junior Department, and his corps of teachers. Santa distributed gifts and fruit from the tree, and each child brought socks for the White Gift Service, the socks to be sent to the Elon Orphanage.

The United Church went on the air January 18th when the morning service was broadcast over radio station WLAG. The Rev. John E. Pickens, Jr., pastor, was the devotional speaker for LaGrange's new radio station, WTRP, three Sundays in January.

A cordial WELCOME awaits visitors to United Church, LaGrange.

—Mrs. John Laubenthal.

The members of the *Garden City Church* are excited over their new project! Due to the widening and improvement of the highway the church will have to be moved, and it has been decided to build a much needed basement at the new site. The Sunday School has started the ball rolling with a goal of 1400 cement blocks at 15c a block. A miniature

basement showing the new plan and what it will take in materials has been constructed and each contributor of 15c has his name printed on a block. If any reader wishes to contribute just send your money to Mrs. Gordon Latham, Garden City, Ala. It will be greatly appreciated.

The Women's Fellowship held a "Gift and Goodies" sale just before Christmas—proceeds to go to the building fund. Christmas activities included a play "Grandma's Christmas Gift" by the Pilgrim Fellowship, and a Christmas message with a playlet "If He Had Not Come" given by the Sunday School. A White Gift of soap and money was sent overseas where the need is great.

It's mighty nice to see our pastor, Miss Campbell, riding smoothly and safely around town now that she has traded her "old chariot" for a 1950 Chevrolet station wagon!

—Mrs. Ray Price.

The *Alexander City Hunt Memorial Church* is making progress in its program of renovating and improving the church. Doors have been replaced with windows and the front has been finished with the exception of the floor in the vestibule.

The church was privileged to have the Rev. J. R. Carville fill the pulpit on January 11 in the absence of the pastor, the Rev. M. L. Thrasher. His wonderful message was inspirational to all. —Mrs. James Cumbee.

After the January 10 service, the trustees of the *Demorest Federated Church* made plans to present the CBLF to members at the annual meeting to be held the following week. The Rev. Chas. Erickson, Georgia Conference chairman of the CBLF, directed the presentation and the film, "Basis of the Blueprint" was shown.

News of the Churches

The Sunday School had a White Gift Service before Christmas. Following a tableau of the Nativity and a reading of the Christmas story the children laid their gifts on the hay beside the manger. These gifts along with others from the adult class were taken to several families in the community. —Mrs. E. W. Butler.

The *Tallassee Mt. Olive Church* held a Dedication Service and Christmas dinner the latter part of December, and the Rev. Clyde C. Flannery gave a most inspiring sermon, lifting the spirit of everyone present. The Dedication Service was on behalf of the three Sunday School rooms added to the church.

Men, women and children helped in financing the project, and the men of the church and community did the building. It was God's love and mercy which gave everyone strength to do what was done—without His help we could not have accomplished it.

After the service a fellowship dinner was enjoyed by all. That evening a beautiful Christmas program of poems and a short play was given by the young people of the church, followed by a beautiful message from the pastor, the Rev. M. O. Worley.

The Christmas program of the *United Church of Phenix City* was presented by the Sunday School. Mary Frances Hall opened the program with a Scripture, and each class presented its part as follows: The Primary Class, teachers Mrs. Monroe Harrison and Mrs. Bryn, assisted by Mrs. Mary Margaret Smoot, gave songs and recitals in groups and individually; the Junior Class, teacher Mrs. Patsy Davis, gave a group recital "Ten Christmas Stockings"; the Intermediate Class, teacher Mrs. Harry Barr, presented group recitals and

poems followed by a one-act play "Waiting for a Christmas Special". The program was closed by Santa making gifts of fruit and presents to each child. —Paralee Hill.

The 272nd Annual Meeting of the *Circular Church of Charleston, S. C.*, was held on January 12. The reports revealed how this historic church is again becoming one of the fine churches of Greater Charleston. Within the past fifteen months, since Archie Burns Bedford became pastor, the congregations have doubled, the enrollment of the Church School grown from 61 to 102, the active membership from 66 to 126 and the financial pledges from about \$1800 to \$4375 plus \$1200 more for the new Baldwin organ. Mr. William H. Sharpe, a former student of Southern Union and a graduate of Piedmont College and Duke University, was again elected the President of the Congregation.

The Annual Report for the Year-book shows that the *Pilgrim Church of Chattanooga* has nineteen new members and that attendance has increased, Church school and all other organizations show definite growth, and the current expense and benevolent giving were more than ever before.

The customary pre-Christmas bazaar of the women's guilds was very successful. A Christmas offering was taken for the church's first contribution to the national CBLF campaign.

In November the Men's Club entertained the men from the Daisy and Soddy churches for a supper meeting. Allan G. Saunders is president of the Men's Club. A series of three lectures on the history, principles and teachings of Congregationalism was given by the pastor, the Rev. Arnold Slater.

Women's Fellowship

Recently the W.M.S. of the *Andalusia, First Church* sponsored the Pilgrim Players of *Antioch Church* in a three-act comedy "Calm Yourself."

The December program was in charge of Mrs. A. C. Nelson. Prof. E. F. Adams of Wrens, Ga., was the guest speaker and showed a film strip which was enjoyed by all. Visitors were the Rev. A. C. Nelson and Alfred Adams.

—Alfred E. Adams.

The Women's Christian Service Club of *United Church, Phenix City*, under the direction of Mrs. Elsie Edwards, dressed fifty dolls for the Salvation Army. The dolls were distributed to children of the community. At the annual Christmas party a gift of \$25 was made to Mrs. Masters of Warm Springs, Ga., instead of the members exchanging gifts. Refreshments and games were enjoyed by all.

—Paralee Hill.

The *West Point, Bethel WMS* had charge of the church Christmas program and presented an inspirational play entitled "The Seeker". The choir was composed of the church young people, who sang beautifully. After the program gifts were exchanged and fruits given to all children.

—Mrs. James M. Smith.

The WMS and the Lois Vincent Society of the *Evarts Church* held their annual Christmas program and party in the church parlor. Gifts were exchanged around the tree and a beautiful sweater presented to Mrs. Cora Trosper, widow of the late Rev. J. M. Trosper who was minister of the *Evarts Church* for many years.

—Mrs. N. B. Smith.

The Woman's Fellowship of the *Union Hill Church, Pearson*, con-

tributed \$250 to the Parsonage Building Fund during the month of December. The monthly meetings are well attended and members are interested in Friendly Service and other fellowship projects. At the last meeting the treasurer was authorized to send a contribution to the Church Building Loan Fund.

The *Mount Olive Women's Fellowship Circle* held their December meeting in the beautifully decorated home of Mrs. C. L. Peters. A most interesting program was led by Mrs. H. O. Thornton. The Friendly Service Chairman, Mrs. Elmer Jones, reported on the community services to the ill, widows and shut-ins, and funds were raised for other community service projects. The treasurer reported that more than \$125 was cleared from the sale of Christmas cards and novelties.

Laymen's Fellowship

An active men's club, the *United Club*, for the men of the *LaGrange United Church* and community, is giving the women competition. Outstanding speakers have been secured by the President, Carl W. Benefield—Miss Ikuko Korera of Kobe, Japan; Miss Jackson of Atlanta; and Alvin Davis, director of social relations for the Callaway Mills Company. Mr. Davis also brought the morning message on December 28. Sammy Nelson, ministerial student at *Elon College*, preached the evening sermon on that date, while the pastor and his family were enjoying a much deserved vacation and visit with home-folk in Florida.

—Mrs. John Laubenthal.

Pilgrim Fellowship

At the first meeting of the Young People's Class of the *Daisy Church* the following officers were elected: Freddy Paul Wilson, president; Barbara Ferry, vice-president; "Corky" Roberson, secretary, and Ann Roberson, treasurer. A meeting for these officers the following Sunday resulted in great plans for the future. It was decided that the group will get together to play ball or to work on some class project from four to six each Friday afternoon.

As is typical of young people this group was interested in beginning social activities. A white elephant sale was planned and \$12 realized to be used for social and other activities. A wiener roast and treasure hunt constituted the first party of the class. A candy pulling was held in January, and a Valentine party will be given in the Cabin on February 14.

The class participated in the church's Christmas program—the girls forming the choir while the boys appeared in tableaux depicting the shepherds and wise men.

A name has not yet been selected, but the class has a motto which can mean much to the spiritual growth of all—"To know Christ and to make Him known". Mrs. Elizabeth W. Henry is the teacher and sponsor of this class.

—Mrs. Ella V. Lewis.

Recently the Pilgrim Fellowship of the *Garden City Church* entertained the Evangelic and Reformed young people of Cullman at a Harvest Party. Miss Loretta Petersen came and showed a film for the program. The E. and R. Church returned the gesture with a New Year's Eve Watch Party.

PF members prepared and deliv-

ered Christmas baskets to several shut-in members and friends of the church. Funds for the baskets were taken from the Deacon's Fund.

—Mrs. Ray Price.

On December 2 the young girls of the *First Church of Andalusia* met at the home of Mrs. A. C. Nelson to organize a girls' club. The name is the G.C.F. (Girls' Christian Fellowship) and meetings are held on Thursday nights at 6:30 o'clock. The project of the club is to buy a large pulpit chair for the church. An "apron patching" is being carried out as a way of raising money.

Officers of the club are Jeanette Fore, president; Patty Carter, vice-president; Annette Godwin, secretary-treasurer; Anita Briggs, Program chairman; Edgena Peevy, Friendly Service chairman; Ruth McLeod, Ways and Means chairman; and Joyce Nelson, Social Chairman. Sponsors for the club are Mrs. A. C. Nelson and Mrs. Lula Trawick.

—Alfred E. Adams.

The Christian Endeavor Society of the *Good Hope Church* near Baker, Fla., sent another contribution of \$18 to the Lucy Perry Noble Institute in Madurai, South India. This means another six months in school, including room and board, for Savaraimmal, the child this society adopted to send to the institute.

The film "More for Peace" was shown at the last meeting, and we hope this excellent film will inspire all who see it to be more faithful and loyal to Christ and His church.

A group of young people presented a Christmas play "Christmas Under the Stars" at the church on the night of December 23.

—Ida Mae Gunter.

Merrill's Marauder

(Continued from page 2)

in for chaplains or serving civilian parishes in the vicinity. Major Weston has been particularly active in our local Congregational Christian Churches in the City of Columbus, Ga.

On January 4, 1953, it was my privilege to participate in an Ordination Service in which Major Weston was made a member of our fellowship. The North Highland Congregational Church of Columbus, Ga., was the host church for the occasion. Its pastor, the Rev. Peter Doherty, delivered the ordination sermon. The Rev. Erston M. Butterfield, newly appointed Superintendent of the Southeast Convention, examined the candidate and extended the Right Hand of Fellowship. Other ministers who participated in the service are: Lowell Smoot of the United Congregational Church of Phenix City, Alabama; Henry C. Weaver of Atlanta, Ga.; Carl C. Dollar, Director of the Christian Rural Extension Service, Roanoke, Ala.; and Chaplain Edwin C. Gomke of Fort Benning, Ga. Other ministers present were: Col. Warren M. Marshall, Alvin Galloway, and Fred Cone.

Officially, I am Major Weston's chaplain. It has been an unusual experience for me to see one of my own officers become a minister in full standing. I take great pleasure in presenting another pastor to our churches and pray that Major Weston's enthusiasm will carry him through to his final goal of a commission in the Chaplains' Corps.

Antioch Church

(Continued from page 3)

in 1951. It applied for a loan and grant from the Church Building Society. The funds were refused be-

cause of a shortage of money. The people rose to the occasion and began work in earnest. The contractors wanted \$30,000 to build the church. In 1952 the church adopted a \$5,000 budget, and in March began building on a cash basis. The work never stopped. The people and their pastor went to the woods and sawed timber that had been contributed. One of the members owned a saw mill, so it was simple to get the logs turned into usable lumber. The old building was torn town and much fine timber was found in it that could be used.

The plans called for a brick building, and it was found that brick manufacturers in Montgomery would sell us brick at dealers cost if we did the hauling. Many of our farmers had trucks, and the hauling began. The only labor that was hired was the bricklaying and the framing—the remainder of the work was done by the people led by their pastor. A total of \$9,346 in cash has been invested, and there is hardly a person in the community who has not contributed something to the building.

The basic structure was completed and dedicated on January 4, 1953, and is free from debt. The budget was \$5,000 for the year, but the church actually raised \$7,600. The Dedication Service inaugurated the first fulltime service the church has ever experienced. One of the happiest experiences of the pastor was to be able to write the Convention office and ask that the mission aid be discontinued. As of January 1, 1953 the Antioch Church is a fulltime self-supporting work. The budget for the new year was unanimously adopted and it calls for a tithe of the current expense budget for missions. God has indeed been good to us at Antioch, and all that has been done has been through Him.

—Rev. Hugh Lasseter.

Dates to Remember

- Feb. 3—Valley Ministers' meeting
in Wadley, Ala.
Feb. 6—Southeast Convention
Board of Directors and
Moderators meeting in At-
lanta, Ga.
Feb. 8—Race Relations Sunday
Feb. 12—Lincoln's Birthday
Feb. 15—Day of Prayer for Students
Feb. 18—Ash Wednesday
Feb. 20—World Day of Prayer
Feb. 21—Georgia Conference Plan-
ning Committee for Sum-
mer Camp meeting in
Douglas, Ga.
Feb. 22—March 1—Brotherhood
Week
Feb. 22—Washington's Birthday
Feb. 22—First Sunday in Lent
Feb. 24-26—Southeast Regional
Meeting in Avon Park, Fla.
Feb. 28—Alabama Laymen meeting
in Wadley, Ala.

Obituary

Mrs. Martha E. Carpenter died January 16 at her home in Birmingham, Ala., where she has lived for the past fifteen years. A short funeral service was held in Birmingham, after which the body was brought to Lanett for the funeral service on Sunday afternoon, January 18. The Rev. Joe A. French conducted the service, assisted by the Rev. John E. Pickens,

Church Building Loan Fund Area Meetings

- Feb. 17—Crossville, First Church;
noon meeting
Feb. 17—Chattanooga, Pilgrim
Church; evening meeting
Feb. 18—Atlanta, Center Church;
evening meeting
Feb. 19—Barnesville, Fredonia
Church; noon meeting
Feb. 19—Douglas, First Church;
evening meeting
Feb. 20—Andalusia, Antioch
Church; evening meeting
Feb. 21—E. Tallassee, Liberty
Church; evening meeting
Feb. 22—Columbus, North High-
land Church; noon meeting
Feb. 22—Roanoke, Lowell Church;
evening meeting
Feb. 27—Hanceville, Mt. Grove
Church; evening meeting
Feb. 28—Laymen's meeting, Wadley,
Ala.

Jr. and the Rev. John D. Dollar.

Mrs. Carpenter was eighty-four years old and the widow of Samuel E. Carpenter, who died in 1931. She is survived by four sons—the Rev. W. C. Carpenter of Tifton, C. J. Carpenter, of LaGrange, N. F. Carpenter and L. M. Carpenter of West Point, and by two daughters, Mrs. B. L. Welch of Birmingham and Mrs. F. L. Jean of Cullman.